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A VERY FAIR COMPARISON

OF THE
RELATIVE CONDITION OF FARMERS

IN
NEW YORK STATE AND THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,

MADE BY

*An Influential and Impartial Committee
of the County of Leeds.*

1893

THE CONCLUSION ARRIVED AT:

"From all we could learn we found that farmers in Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties, where we visited, pay as much or more for what they have to purchase and get no more for the produce they have to sell than do farmers in the County of Leeds. We also found that they are not any more prosperous, and from all we could gather are more heavily mortgaged than farmers in the County of Leeds. We also found that well improved farms of the very best of soil, free from broken lands, and lying within from two to ten miles of the city of Ogdensburg, as well as in other localities where we made enquiries, can be purchased much cheaper than lands of the same quality with same improvements similarly situated in the County of Leeds; that lands have depreciated in value more in the last ten years in St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties than similarly situated lands in the County of Leeds."

During the last session of Parliament the position of the Canadian farmer as compared with his brother farmer in the United States attracted a good deal of attention, especially with respect to the articles of binder twine and coal oil—the duty on both of which articles was materially reduced by the Government. The general contention of the Opposition was, in effect, that the operation of the National Policy was to increase to the farmer the cost of those articles he was obliged to purchase, and to lessen the prices which he could obtain for the farm and other articles he produced. It was further argued by Sir Richard Cartwright and other Opposition orators that the value of the farm lands had greatly declined on account of the adoption of a Protective policy in 1879; that mortgages had increased; that the general condition of the farmer in Canada was worse than it was in the United States, and that the only remedy for such a state of things was closer trade relations with the United States, whereby the Canadian farmer would have access to their "market of

sixty-five millions," and be able to get more for his produce and pay less for implements, clothing and other articles required by him. On the other hand it was argued by supporters of the National Policy that the success of that policy was shown by the general prosperity of Canada at a time when a wave of commercial depression was sweeping over Free Trade Great Britain, as well as the United States, whose tariff is nearly twice as high as that of Canada; that the general condition of the Canadian farmer was better than that of the farmer in either Great Britain or the United States, and that it was not true that the farmers in the United States paid less for their agricultural implements, clothing, etc., than did the farmers of Canada, nor did they obtain better prices for their produce. While this battle was being fought out theoretically it occurred to Mr. George Taylor, M.P. for South Leeds, that it would be a good idea to put the question of the relative conditions of the farmers in contiguous portions of the United States and Canada to a practical test, by having those conditions compared by practical and impartial judges who would enquire fully into the matter and report thereon from their personal experiences. With the object of making such a comparison he addressed a letter to a meeting of his constituents, from which the following extract is taken :—

MR. TAYLOR'S PROPOSITION.

OTTAWA, 27th February, 1893.

GENTLEMEN,—

* * * "Another matter which I would suggest and ask the Council to approve of and assist in carrying out is this :

"As there is a great deal of talk at present about Free Trade, or freer trade relations, Unrestricted Reciprocity, Commercial or Political Union, or as the latest platform, proposed by Sir Richard Cartwright in his amendment now before the House, viz. : Tariff Reform, and as you will have seen the Government proposition is (as made by the Minister of Finance in his budget speech) that a general revision of the tariff shall take place next year on the National Policy or protection lines, to all our industries, manufacturing and agricultural, with the view of reducing and equalising the burdens of the people, so far as is possible, without resorting to direct taxation, in order to successfully carry on the business of the country, and that in the meantime, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, together with the Comptrollers of Customs and Inland Revenue, will visit all the manufacturing centres and agricultural districts to discuss with the people the whole question and receive suggestions, etc., etc., and as I expect them to visit our county, where they will spend a day or two to meet the manufacturers and farmers,

and in order that we may, from a farmer's point of view, discuss matters intelligently and with a full knowledge of the situation, I suggest that a committee of two be appointed to select one man from each township in South Leeds, and that the most reliable, practical, common sense men be selected, and in the selection, I would

SUGGEST THAT ONE OR TWO REFORMERS BE CHOSEN.

and that all are men who are able to express their opinions in public; and in selecting to take one who is well up to the cheese and butter industry, another in stock, another in mercantile pursuits, another in farm implements, another in fruits and vegetables, &c., &c., so that all classes may fairly be represented; and I want it so arranged that the men thus selected will meet me say early in June. We will then cross over the river to Clayton and drive through the country as far as Ogdensburg, calling at farm houses, stores, cheese factories, and learn how land compares in value with ours, also horses, cattle, sheep, pork, eggs, fruits, butter, cheese, grains, roots, &c., &c.; the taxes paid by farmers there as compared with ours; the prices of farm machinery, waggons, buggies, groceries, cottons, woollens, clothing, &c., &c., and the prices paid to laborers, &c.; and to see generally if the farmers who have the benefit of the 65,000,000 market are more prosperous than we are in Canada. How lands and personal property stand as to mortgages, &c., and to generally gather such information as to be able to advise the Government where changes, if any, can be made that will benefit the agricultural interest of the Canadian farmer. I may add that all I want is that good practical men be selected in whom their neighbors will have confidence when they make their report, to come with me, as I will pay the expenses of the trip in order to be able to gather this information, and to be in a position to represent properly the views of my constituents to the Government in any changes that may be suggested. I may say also that I will expect this Committee to meet the members of the Government when they visit Gananoque. I suggest this course and hope it will meet with your approval."

I am,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) G. TAYLOR.

THE LIBERALS BACK OUT.

It will be noticed that the proposal made was a perfectly fair one. The portions of the United States Mr. Taylor proposed to visit are the counties of Jefferson and St. Lawrence, in the large and populous State of New York, which State alone

contains a greater population than the whole of Canada. These counties lie almost due south of the County of Leeds, with the St. Lawrence river between. They have practically the same soil and climate as the County of Leeds, and the pursuits are almost precisely the same, namely agriculture and dairying, with some manufacturing. The advantage, such as it is, lies with the New York counties, as their population is more dense than that of Leeds, and the towns in them are larger than the towns in the Canadian county. In order that there may be no charge of political bias in the investigation, Mr. Taylor suggested that "one or two Reformers be chosen," which was done. The gentlemen selected were practical men of good standing in the community, whose testimony would have been unimpeachable. Unfortunately, these gentlemen attended the Liberal Convention held at Ottawa, on the 20th and 21st June, and on their return home, **backed squarely out of their engagement** and declined to be members of the Committee. The reason assigned for this was, that if they went they would feel in honor bound to report truthfully on what they saw, and if this happened to be unfavorable to the position taken by the Liberals, they would be accused of being traitors to their party. It is to be regretted that these gentlemen allowed themselves to be influenced by their party leaders; but the fact that such influence was used is very conclusive evidence that those party leaders had no desire to ascertain the truth or falsity of their statements that the American farmer was more prosperous than his Canadian brother, and that they feared that free and impartial investigation would show that there were no grounds for any such contention, but that, on the contrary, the position of the Canadian farmer was, on the whole, better than that of his neighbor to the south of him.

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

After the defection of the Liberals selected, Conservatives were appointed in their places, and the Committee was finally constituted as follows: Andrew Gray, Esq., farmer and Warden of the united counties of Leeds and Grenville; John A. Webster, Esq., farmer, Reeve of the front of Leeds and Lansdowne; John Connor, farmer and cheese manufacturer; Alexander Atcheson, farmer, President of the South Leeds Agricultural Association; John Roddick, miller and farmer, ex-Reeve of Leeds and Lansdowne (rear); Thomas Berney, agricultural implement dealer, ex-Reeve of rear of Young and Eascott; John Franklin, farmer and President of the Farmers' Institute for Brockville Riding; E. G. Adams, Esq., farmer and implement dealer, ex-Reeve of North Crosby, and John R. Dargavel, general merchant and Township Clerk for South Crosby. These gentlemen spent three days with Mr. Taylor in St. Lawrence and Jefferson counties, and have presented the following report, which is given in full, merely omitting Mr. Taylor's letter, which is given above, and which is quoted in the report:

BROCKVILLE, 7th July, 1893.

To George Taylor, Esq., M.P.,

South Leeds.

DEAR SIR,—

We, the delegates selected, whose names are hereto annexed, met you as agreed at Brockville on the 4th day of July and proceeded with you to Ogdensburg, and spent three days driving through different portions of the best farming and dairying sections in St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties in the State of New York, stopped at farm houses, talked with farmers and cheese manufacturers, visited a number of stores, obtaining samples of goods and prices also, visited harness shops, agricultural implement dealers, carriage dealers, blacksmiths' shops, etc., etc., in order to carry out the instructions contained in your letter. We embody in this our report to you several interviews we had with some of the men with whom we talked. We conversed also with many others and found them all fairly agreed in the views of those herein reported. **From all we could learn we found that farmers in Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties, where we visited, pay as much or more for what they have to purchase and get no more for the produce they have to sell than do farmers in the County of Leeds. We also found that they are not any more prosperous, and from all we could gather are more heavily mortgaged than farmers in the County of Leeds. We also found that well improved farms of the very best of soil, free from broken lands, and lying within from two to ten miles of the city of Ogdensburg, as well as in other localities where we made enquiries, can be purchased much cheaper than lands of the same quality with same improvements similarly situated in the County of Leeds; that lands have depreciated in value more in the last ten years in St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties than similarly situated lands in the County of Leeds.** In regard to prices we found cotton goods of all kinds will average about the same in the United States as in Canada; woollen goods of all kinds and clothings are very much higher in the States than in Canada; sugar and teas are higher in the States than in Canada; provisions about the same; agricultural machinery and binder twine are higher in the States than in Canada; waggons and buggies, considering quality, the Canadian goods are as cheap if not cheaper than the American; cheese furnishings are higher in the States than in Canada, while cheese is not so high; taxes, irrespective of school and poll taxes, are higher in the States than in Canada; western corn is very little, if any, used by the farmers in the section of country visited by us for feeding purposes, farmers using chiefly their own coarse grains. The following are some of the prices quoted by merchants in Ogdensburg, Hewvelton, Redwood and Clayton, New York, for their leading articles :—

CANADIAN PRICES.

AMERICAN PRICES.

GROCERIES.

16 lbs. gran. sugar.....	for \$1.00	16 lbs. gran. sugar	for \$1.00
20 lbs. Bt. Muscovado sugar... "	1.00	18 lbs. Muscovado.....	" 1.00
Japan tea.....	from 25c to 35c	Japan tea	30c, 40c, 50c, 60c
Black tea.....	" 35c to 50c	Black tea.....	70c, 80c and upwards
Coffee.....	" 35c to 40c	Coffee.....	37c to 45c
Raisins.....	.8c	Raisins	10c
Prunes.....	.8c	Prunes	10c
Currants.....	.8c	Currants	10c
Rice.....	22 lbs. for \$1.00	Rice, 20 lbs.....	for \$1.00
Oatmeal.....	3½c	Oatmeal.....	.5c
Flour, per 100 lbs.....	\$2.00	Flour.....	\$1.00 to \$1.05 per sack of 50 lbs.

DRY GOODS.

Factory cotton, 36 in.....	5c to 8c	Factory cotton, 36 in.....	5c to 7½c
Bleached cotton, 36 in.....	8½c to 10c	Bleached cotton, 36 in.....	6c to 9c
Cottonades.....	15c to 25c	Cottonades.....	16c to 26c
Checked gingham.....	7c to 10c	Checked gingham	8c to 10c
Spool cotton, 200 yds.....	4c	Spool cotton, 200 yds	5c
Cheese bandage cloth, 15 to 16 in.....	5½c	Cheese band'ge cloth, 15 to 16 in., 68 to 69c	
Men's suits of black worsted..	\$10 to \$15	Men's suits of black worsted..	\$15 to \$22

Mr. Thomas Berney has on a suit of tweed, made to order by H. H. Arnold, Athens, which cost him \$15.

Mr. Farley, the proprietor of the Farley House, Redwood, had a suit of same material, made to order at Carthage, trimmed the same in every way, for which he paid \$24.

This is about the difference we found at several points in all kinds of custom clothing. Ladies' woollen dress goods of every description we found at least 50 per cent. higher than in Canada; linen goods also are very much cheaper in Canada than in the United States, while rubber clothing is somewhat cheaper in the United States than in Canada.

HARDWARE.

Scythes.....	60c to 90c	Scythes.....	50c to 65c
Hay forks, 3-tined.....	45c to 50c	Hay forks, 3-tined.....	40c to 50c
Shovels.....	65c	Shovels.....	50c

Hoes.....	40c to 50c
Scythe snaths.....	60c to 75c
Hay rakes.....	10c to 15c
Barbed wire.....	4½c
Cut nails.....	\$ 2.65
Wood cook stove.....	\$11.00 to 20.00
Milk cans, 30 gals.....	4.00
Axes.....	75c to 1.00
Horse nails.....	10c
Coal oil, Imp. Gal.....	13c to 30c
Horse fork, complete for 60 ft. barn, manilla rope.....	\$22.00 to \$25.00

Lawn mowers.....	\$4.00
Barn door, rollers and track roller \$1.00, track 6c ft.	

Hoes.....	30c to 35c
Scythe snaths.....	75c
Hay rakes.....	15c to 20c
Barbed wire.....	3½c
Cut nails.....	\$ 2.10
Wood cook stove.....	\$11.00 to 25.00
Milk cans, 30 gals.....	5.50
Axes.....	60c to 90c
Horse nails.....	15c
Coal oil, wine gal.....	10c to 12½c
Horse fork, single, \$1.25 to \$1.50; complete for 60 ft. barn, \$13.00 to \$16.00, but the American truck and fork are not nearly so good as the Canadian.	
Lawn mowers.....	\$7.00
Barn door, rollers and track rollers, \$1.00, track 7c ft.	

HARNESS.

Single.....	\$10.00 to \$20.00	Single.....	\$12.50 to \$25.00
Lt. double.....	20.00 to 40.00	Lt. double.....	25.00 to 50.00
Lumber.....	25.00 to 27.00	Lumber.....	25.00 to 35.00

IMPLEMENTS.

Best binders.....	\$100.00 to \$110.00	Best binders.....	\$120.00 to \$135.00
Reapers.....	60.00 to 65.00	Reapers.....	60.00 to 65.00
Mowers.....	40.00 to 45.00	Mowers.....	49.00 to 48.00
Horse rakes.....	22.00	Horse rakes.....	25.00
Seeders.....	48.00	Seeders.....	50.00
10-hoe drill.....	60.00	10-hoe drill.....	65.00
Randall Disk Harrow.....	22.00	Randall Disk Harrow.....	28.00
General purpose plough, Frost & Wood pattern, or the Wilkinson.	13.00	General purpose plough, Frost & Wood pattern, or the Wilkinson.	16.00
Binder twine, standard.....	9½c	Binder twine, standard.....	11c
“ manilla.....	10½c	“ manilla.....	12½c
Last year's prices for binder twine were.....	12c and 13c		

The prices of machinery are quoted for cash in both markets and qualities are equal.

CARRIAGES.

Lumber waggon, box and all complete	\$65.00	Lumber waggon, box and all complete	\$65.00
Open buggy, leather trimmed	50.00 to 65.00	Open buggy, cloth trimmed	55.00
Top buggy, rubber top and leather trimmed	\$ 60.00 to 110.00	Top buggy, rubber top and cloth trimmed	\$ 70.00 to 85.00
Phaetons, leather trim'd	125.00 to 175.00	Phaetons, cloth trim'd	137.00 to 175.00
Carts	12.00 to 45.00	Carts	15.00 to 50.00
Democrats	75.00 to 90.00	Democrats	75.00 to 90.00

CHEESE FACTORIES.

We visited several cheese factories in both St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties and found that the cheese factories manufacture the cheese and furnish all the findings at from 1c to 1½c per pound; that the average is about 10½ lbs. milk to produce a pound of cheese. The furnishings cost as follows:—

Cheese boxes, 9c to 9½c.

Bandage cloth, 6½c to 6½c for seamless 15 to 16 inches, while the Canadian price for same goods is 5½c.

Salt, \$2.75 per brl. fine, or 60c per sack of 120 lbs. coarse.

Vat holding 6,000 lbs. milk costs \$65.

Cheese hoops, \$3 each.

Press screws, \$3 each.

Rennet extract, \$1.40 to \$1.50 per wine gallon.

Average sales of cheese at last week's sale, July 1st, 8½c per pound at Watertown Board, while on same date Canadian sales, Brockville Board, 9c to 9½c.

The following prices were given by Mr. E. H. Sheldon, Ogdensburg, N.Y., importer and jobber of the Wilkinson plough and dealer in carriages, harness and all classes of agricultural implements, binder twine, etc., etc:—

	Cash.	Time (1st Oct).
Osborne mower	\$ 42.00	\$ 45.00
Deering mower	45.00	48.00
Binder	120.00	125.00
Reaper	60.00	65.00
Wilkinson plough	16.00	
Waggon without box	50.00	
Waggon with box and neck yoke and whiffletree	65.00	
Sulky plough	42.00	45.00

Mann seeder.....	50.00	55.00
Binder twine, standard.....	11 cts.	
" manilla.....	12½ cts.	

I will furnish any of the above articles at the above prices.

(Signed) E. H. SHELDON,
Ogdensburg, N. Y.

THE TESTIMONY OF AMERICAN FARMERS.

L. King Martin lives three miles south of Ogdensburg, owns a well equipped 210 acre farm with first-class buildings; is also a horse and cattle dealer, and the County Supervisor. His farm is well stocked, including 40 milch cows; sells his milk at 5 cents per quart delivered in Ogdensburg. Says farms in his locality have depreciated very much in the last few years—good farms on his road worth from \$35 to \$50 an acre; purchased the farm he now owns six years ago at \$66 per acre; has considerably improved it, but does not think he could now sell it for \$50 per acre; that farms have depreciated in value 25% in the last few years; thinks the tariff has nothing to do with the depreciation of farm property. A large number of farms in this locality were heavily mortgaged. Says good milch cows are worth from \$30 to \$35; hogs, live weight, \$5.50 per hundred pounds; no market price fixed for lambs; his taxes last year were \$74, exclusive of school taxes, road work or poll tax.

George H. Mulhinch lives within two and a half miles of Ogdensburg, owns as choice a farm as can be found anywhere, containing 95 acres with first-class buildings; purchased it in 1879 at \$60 per acre without any buildings. Would be glad to sell it now at \$55 per acre after expending \$1,530 or \$2,000 on improvements. Paid \$39 taxes last year besides his school tax and ten days statute labor. Paid \$47 for mowing machine now using.

James Bell, living on the Hewvelton Road, about 6 miles from the city of Ogdensburg, owns 150 acres of choice land well improved. Says his farm is worth about \$50 an acre and that that is the average price for well-improved farms in his section; he does not think he could sell at that, and says it is as good a farm as there is in the section. Taxes, exclusive of school tax, statute labor and poll tax, \$49 last year. Good cows are worth from \$30 to \$35; veal calves, from \$4 to \$5. Keeps a large number of cows; manufactures all his milk into butter; churns with horse power; has all the latest appliances for making choice creamery butter; raises a number of hogs,—sold his pork for \$7.50 per 100 lbs at Ogdensburg, dressed; his creamery butter for 22 cents.

Mr. Samuel McLennan lives three miles south of Hewvelton, in a good well-improved farm with good buildings,—160 acres of land assessed for \$3,200. Taxes, last year, \$30, exclusive of school, statute labor and poll taxes. Says price of land in his section has depreciated about 30 per cent. in last ten years. A first-class farm, with all modern improvements can be bought at \$40 per acre. Wages to good farm hands during haying and harvest, \$1.75 to \$2 per day. Milks 16 cows, which return him \$26 each, (realized this last year from the cheese factory). Horses have depreciated at least 30 per cent. in the last six years; sold a fine four-year old colt for \$100 this spring, while six years ago sold one of about same quality for \$150. Pork sells at 7½c per lb. dressed on Ogdensburg market. Pays \$250 rent per year for the farm and can purchase it for \$5,000. Paid \$65 this spring for a seeder. Says binders are \$120, reapers \$85, rakes \$25, ploughs \$14. Says the Conger farm near Canton, containing 150 acres, sold last spring at \$50 per acre, on which there had lately been erected a \$1,500 barn. This same farm was valued a few years ago by the appraiser of the Loan Company at \$60 per acre, before the barn was erected.

Frank Gallager, of Hammond, a cattle and sheep dealer and general speculator, says a good fancy horse with plenty of style and speed will command a good price, while good farm horses, young and sound, can be bought for from \$75 to \$85; plugs, \$25, \$30 to \$40. A No. 1 new milch cow, with calf at her side, worth \$35, average \$30. Hogs that will weigh 175 to 200 lbs. are worth \$5.50 per 100 lbs., live weight, while heavy hogs are worth less. Sheep and lambs, no price fixed, but will be considerably less than last year; expect they will not bring over 4½c per lb., live weight, for lambs that will weigh 70 to 80 lbs. Hay is worth \$8, \$10 and \$12, according to quality. A 1 clear timothy is \$12 when delivered at the station, the seller to furnish the help to press and the wood to bind it and draw to station. Oats, 35c; wool, 22c—bought 3,000 lbs. last week at 22c per lb.; butter, 16c to 18c; eggs, 13c on Ogdensburg market. Says for the last ten years, to his certain knowledge, hogs and cattle have been worth more money in Canada than in the States; that the Montreal market was considerably higher for both hogs and cattle than either New York, Boston or any of the American markets. Says he purchased 300 calves from Mr. S. Ransom, of Delia, four or five years ago, and that, with this exception, being a very dry year, the Canadian markets were the best. Improved farms in his section are worth \$50 per acre if with first-class buildings; the land can be bought from \$30 to \$50. A \$5,000 farm sold in his section this year; the taxes on it last year, exclusive of school taxes, statute labor and poll tax, were somewhere between \$60 and \$70. Land has depreciated in last ten years 33½ at least. A large percentage of the farms in his locality are mortgaged. Two years old steers are worth \$20 to \$25; has 27 bulls, all two years old, except four which are three years old, which cost him \$18 per head, or 1½c per lb., live weight; has 50 head of beef cattle from 3 to 8 years old,

cost him \$19.23 per head when he put them in pasture this spring; offered a party 25 of them last week, to pick them, at \$25 per head. A good milch cow is worth as much at home as in New York,—cannot sell them there at more than \$35. The only thing in his opinion, and he is well acquainted with both markets, that the Canadian farmers would be benefited in by having free trade in natural products, would be in lambs, and now they are raising them in such quantities out West, expect them to be very low here this year. The farmers here buy very little, if any, corn for feeding purposes.

Mr. S. Robertson, farmer, North Hammond Post Office, owns a good farm of 100 acres well improved, worth \$4,000. Says average price for good well-improved farms with good buildings in his vicinity, would run from \$35 to \$50 per acre; that land has depreciated in the last five or six years; a great many of the farms are mortgaged fully 25 per cent. Cows can be bought at from \$25 to \$30 — good milch cows. Pays \$1.10 per 100 lbs. to manufacture his milk into cheese. Buyers are offering from \$2.50 to \$3 for lambs, and as yet no market established. Hay from \$8 to \$12 per ton. Butter 13c to 20c per lb. His cheese sold last week to D. Derbyshire, Brockville, at 8½c, delivered at Oak Point. Hogs for shipping are worth \$4.50 per 100 lbs., live weight, — the butchers are paying \$5.50 for home consumption. Purchased a new mower and paid \$48 cash for it, and a plough at \$15. Good general purpose horse, sound in every way, can be bought at from \$75 to \$100. Barley is worth 48c per bushel; wheat, 60c, and oats, 35c. Wages to men, during haying and harvesting, \$1.50 per day.

Val Hotis, a German farmer, within half a mile of Redwood, owns a farm which he purchased four years ago, containing 150 acres of good land, well-improved, with good frame house, a barn 105 x 45 ft., contains two drive floors, sheep barn, horse barn and stabling for 35 cows, and other out buildings. This with 20 cows, 3 horses and all the implements required to farm it, he got for \$6,000, and said he could not sell it now for over \$5,000. Said good milk cows were worth \$30, and his team of five year old horses, weighing 1,150 lbs. each, sound well-matched, no better team in the county, could not sell for over \$200; while three years ago the same team would bring from \$300 to \$350. His taxes for 1892 were one cent on the dollar, exclusive of school taxes, statute labor and poll tax. Mr. Butterfield, an ex-member of Congress, and a retired gentleman living in Redwood, with whom we conversed, told us that in his opinion the Hotis farm would not bring over \$30 per acre at the present time.

Mr. Watson, a Conveyancer and the Chief Magistrate of Redwood, with whom we also conversed, stated that land in that section with all modern improvements

could be bought at from \$30 to \$50 per acre and that to his certain knowledge over 30% of the farms in that locality were mortgaged, and that chattel mortgages are in excess of this. He also stated that to his knowledge, farming implements were cheaper in Canada than in the States, and also other articles, such as sewing machines, and accounted for this that combinations kept the prices up for the Home market and sold them less to go out of the country. Also that he bought coal in Brockville, and after paying freight had it cheaper than he could buy it at home.

AMERICAN PRICES QUOTED.

Mr. Robert Layng, an extensive implement dealer at Redwood, quoted the following as prices at which he is selling farm implements this year :—

Mowers from.....	\$ 42.00	to	\$ 50.00
McCormick binder.....	135.00	to	140.00
Horse rakes.....	25.00	to	
Reapers.....	60.00	to	65.00
Plough (Smiths Falls pat.).....	14.00	to	
Seed drills.....	60.00	to	65.00
Cultivators.....	7.00	to	

Binder twine, standard 10c, manilla 11c, and that last year's prices for same were 12c to 13c.

Messrs. W. Cosgrove and F. Rupture, drovers and general dealers at Redwood quote :—

Choice dairy cows, \$30 to \$35; hogs, live wt., \$5 to \$5.25; fat cattle that will dress from 400 to 450, are worth from \$22 to \$25; hay per ton, for No 1 quality, \$12; no price yet fixed for lambs.

THE RECORD OF THE POORHOUSE.

The question of whether there are more poor in the United States than in Canada or not can be best judged by the figures which your Committee got from the Report of the Jefferson County Poorhouse for last year, which is as follows :—

The number of weeks' board furnished from October 1st 1891 to October 1st 1892, is 5,622 5/7, average cost per week..... \$1.15 3/4

	Males.	Females.
Number of persons in poorhouse 1st Oct. 1891.....	41	33
" " admitted during year.....	40	36
" " born " " 	6	2
Transferred from County Asylum.....	4	16
Total.....	91	90
Discharged during the year.....	24	28
Died " " 	9	9
Absconded " " 	7	1
Total.....	40	38
Remaining on hand.....	51	52
Total.....		
		103

We interviewed several other farmers at different points and found their statements to agree with those given; also implement dealers at Clayton and elsewhere who gave similar quotations to those already mentioned. We may add that no finer section of farming country can be found in the County of Leeds than that through which we drove for many miles in the counties of St. Lawrence and Jefferson. We found all persons with whom we conversed to be quite willing to give all the information they could, and upon whose statements we fully rely as being truthful.

In concluding this our report, which is longer than we intended, we feel that in justice to ourselves we ought to report the facts as fully as possible, and that we have only reported them as we found them and know them to exist on both sides of the line, and to which we can testify and give many other reports of interviews, which we have noted down, if necessary. We can also produce samples of cotton and woollen goods, teas, sugar, binder twine, and other articles which we secured by purchase and otherwise, for comparison, and which we can produce at any time if necessary. So that all the facts herein stated you may depend upon as being perfectly reliable.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

(Signed), ANDREW GRAY, Chairman.
 JOHN A. WEBSTER, Secretary.

Committee.

ALEX. ATCHESON,	JOHN FRANKLIN
JOHN CONNER,	E. G. ADAMS,
THOS. BERNEY,	JOHN RODDICK,
J. R. DARGAVEL,	